



# Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilot

## *Birmingham, AL*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

### BACKGROUND

The City of Birmingham has more than 2,500 acres of old industrial sites. Many of these sites require environmental cleanup before they can be returned to productive use. North Birmingham is the home of the city's iron foundry business, and a 900-acre site has been targeted for the BCRLF pilot. More than 40 percent of the land is abandoned and environmental contamination has deterred reinvestment and redevelopment. The population in the area is predominately African American and extremely poor. While major manufacturing and transportation companies continue to operate in the area, the district has lost more than 40 percent of its population since 1970.

### BCRLF OBJECTIVES

The goal of the Birmingham BCRLF Pilot is to fund cleanup of brownfields sites. The BCRLF will be used to leverage other needed funding sources including owner's equity and conventional financial mechanisms. The city will use the BCRLF Pilot as a partner in environmental cleanup and redevelopment projects, particularly in North Birmingham and other industrial areas.

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



Birmingham, Alabama

Date of Award:  
September 1997

Amount: \$350,000

BCRLF Target Area : A  
900-acre site in North  
Birmingham.

#### Contacts:

Mayor's Office,  
Community Enterprise Division  
(205) 254-2870

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 4  
(404) 562-8661

Visit the EPA Region 4 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/region4/wastepps/brownfpgs/bf.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

## FUNDSTRUCTUREANDOPERATIONS

The Mayor's Office, Community Enterprises Division (CED) will act as the Lead Agency. The Director of CED will serve as the Site Manager. The city plans to designate an organization that currently manages similar loan programs as Fund Manager. The Birmingham Environmental Clearinghouse and North Birmingham community organizations will organize and ensure continued interaction with the affected communities.

## LEVERAGINGOTHERRESOURCES

Birmingham will provide in-kind contributions that will enable full capitalization of the loan pool. The city will also continue its partnership with the Birmingham Environmental Clearinghouse, an organization that helps communities understand environmental risk factors. The BCRLF will be used to complement other city-assisted loan programs and the Community Development Block Grant program.

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*Use of BCRLF Pilot funds must be in accordance with CERCLA, and all CERCLA restrictions on use of funding also apply to BCRLF funds.*

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